



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

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Contact: Scott Ray
(517) 373-7670

Sanborn applauds efforts of Michigan residents to save life, heralds the passage of the Legal Birth Definition Act

LANSING – Responding to the requests of thousands of Michigan residents, the Senate today approved the citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act, said Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township.

“The residents of this great state have sent a clear message to the Legislature and the governor: save the lives of the innocent,” Sanborn said. “I am pleased to see the protections the Senate attempted to enact were renewed through a citizen-initiated effort.”

The People’s Override, launched in January, is a response to Gov. Granholm’s veto of Senate Bill 395. The bill would have established a clear definition between when pregnancy ends and birth begins. Within 90 days after the governor vetoed SB 395, more than 460,000 Michigan citizens signed petitions supporting the Legal Birth Definition Act.

The act defines the moment at which a person is considered “born” and is thereby eligible for the full protection of the law. As a result of the establishment of this definition, abortions where a third trimester child is partially born before being killed will be prohibited except in very rare cases where the physical health or life of the mother is seriously threatened by delivery.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats withheld the votes necessary to give the bill immediate effect, so the law will not take effect until 90 days after legislative sine die – the last legislative session day of the year.

“When Gov. Granholm vetoed Senate Bill 395, she claimed the bill did not adequately protect the health of the mother, which is inaccurate,” said Sanborn, a co-sponsor of the legislation. “The bill, as well as the citizen-initiated referendum, provides exceptions in cases where the life of the mother is threatened due to medical complications related to the pregnancy.”

In *Roe v. Wade* and the legal decisions that followed it, the U.S. Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights.

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